

In letters of blood 15th June heralds a new phase of Mass Movement

FROM slumber they rose to hold the red banner high. The streets reverberated under their marching steps. They came—masses of the people, the thousands who trekked from afar, the dense column of men, women and children voicing demands and waving fists clinched in firm resolve. It was a march of protest against the non-Left, anti-people policies of those in government who masquerade as Left but have thrown away the banner of Leftism, who talk of protecting people's interests but have in reality surrendered these interests at the feet of the ruling capitalist class, who exploit people's discontents with a view to coming to governmental power but try to throttle legitimate democratic mass movements when saddled in power.

The marchers came with the object of mass violation of law to voice protest of the toiling people against the deception, treachery and anti-democratic

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SIGNIFICANCE OF 15th JUNE

15th OF JUNE will be marked in the history of democratic mass movement of our country as a Red Letter Day. It came as a turning point, full of promises and carrying a great significance. No doubt, the indignation of the common people caused by the savage repression and brutality of the "pro-people" police of the 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal as also the horrifying memory associated with 15th June will one day fade out with the passage of time. But what will still be left behind is the deep imprint in mass mind which is deeper still in significance heralding the emergence of a genuine revolutionary leadership at the helm of mass movement. 15th June has proved how correct was the vision of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great leader of the proletariat who dreamt in the last days of his life that our Party was going very soon to lead the mass movement. 15th June has more than confirmed the penetrating analysis of **Comrade Ghosh**, that people will rise in mass movements again and again to protest against the rot in their life—they will surge forth again and again in wave after wave despite the onslaught of the ruling capitalist class and deception of the sham-Marxist and social democratic leadership demanding, dignity, better living conditions, democratic rights and, above all, end of exploitation of all sorts of man by man that capitalism has brought upon them. 15th June has broken the silence of mass movement which the people of West Bengal witnessed last in 1966, more than twelve years back, and has proved that ever since the historic food movement of 1959, it is the biggest mass movement that the ruling capitalist class and their defenders have to face although it is unique in its kind being led by a single party, the SUCI, and not by the united left leadership of the past, most of whom have been paradoxically placed today at the antipode of mass movement defending the crisis-ridden capitalism and hoodwinking the people with their so-called left and radical verbiage.

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SUCI Calls the people to thwart Janata Government's move for reintroducing P. D. Act

Calcutta, 30th June :

Expressing serious concern and strongly protesting against the contemplated move of the Prime Minister to re-introduce the Preventive Detention Act, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI states :

The Central Committee of our Party notes that being faced with the ever growing discontent of all sections of the common people of the country, caused by the burden of the growing crisis of capitalism, the Central Janata Government, like its predecessors, plans to curb the minimum democratic right and civil liberty as well as the legitimate struggles of

the people by re-introducing the P. D. Act.

"No wonder, in this era, whoever, from the seat of power, tries to defend the moribund capitalist system takes recourse to such anti-

people measures and thus turns authoritarian.

"The SUCI urges upon all democratic parties and forces, who cherish civil liberty, to come forward to resist this dangerous move in right time."

Proletarian Era

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Emerging leadership of SUCI over Mass Movement is a political reality today

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West Bengal, the citadel of left movements witnessed many a militant mass movement in the past. They were always organised jointly by all the left and democratic parties and were directed against the misrule of the discredited Congress. Congress reacted to these movements with police repression and brutalities. So, while cherishing the glory of left movement of West Bengal that grew and developed in the post-independence period it cannot be denied that those movements had the advantages of first, being united in character and, second, that they had to be directed against the previous Congress Government which was completely discredited to, isolated from and hated by the people. Judged in that yardstick, today's movement is more tortuous and difficult as it finds its only leader in the SUCI and faces a government which is composed of parties who were in mass movement in the past and are at present engaged in deceiving the people with the so-called image of leftism earned at the cost of blood of hundreds of martyrs.

In the past there was always a struggle within the united movements between two distinct lines—the revolutionary line of our Party and the bourgeois reformist line of others who wanted to capitalise people's sufferings and sacrifices to the advantage of their parliamentary career. Due to the gap remaining in organisational strength of our party and in the political consciousness of the people it was the bourgeois-reformist line that was always in the commanding position perpetrating treacheries to the cause of the proletariat and the oppressed people.

To this tragic consequence of their glorious movements, **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great leader of the proletariat drew the attention of the people again and again to instil in them the all-

important lesson that sacrifices and sufferings, no matter how big they are, do not determine the course of their struggle but it is the character of leadership in their struggle that is the deciding factor. To put it more precisely, it is the base political line of movement that determines its course, and nothing else. Today, that historic warning of **Comrade Ghosh** finds its more vivid and concrete indication. The forces of compromise within the mass struggles in the past have been inducted to governmental power in this state and they are outbidding their Congress predecessor in defending the bourgeois law and order.

From their governmental position, parties like the CPI(M) are pursuing a double-faced policy. They maintain the so-called pro-people postures by the bait of bourgeois reformism but both from the government as also from within the ranks of the exploited masses they perform the political job of arresting the mounting discontent and grievances of the people against the exploitative system within the four walls of bourgeois parliamentarism—legalism and with this end in view are opposing mass movements, trying their utmost to nip in the bud any organised attempt of the toiling people to rise against capitalist exploitation and reactionary, anti-people policies of the government. That is why when people's sufferings, are mounting when problems in their life are becoming more and more suffocating, they see to their wonder that even in a state like West Bengal there is no current of mass movement. The one-time 'heroes' of their struggle are now piping the tune of 'peace' and 'class harmony' from governmental position and outside. Peace of graveyard, they want, to reign over this place which was once the nightmare to the rulers in Delhi.

Against this backdrop, 15th June came as the harbinger of change and hope to the people. They were gradually turning their face from the parties on whom they once reposed their faith but instead was expecting of us now to take up this task of building up organised mass movement against the patently anti-people reactionary policies of the 'Left Front' Government. The task was stupendous not merely in its political implication but in organisational aspect too.

Politically, the campaign that was immediately let loose by CPI(M) and others that the movement against the 'Left Front' Government by a left party like SUCI was nothing but a part of 'conspiracy' of the reactionary parties, with whom of course they are befriending on all-India level for a viable 'third force', did not find much ground being nothing more than a propaganda gimmick. Our Party comrades had not to exert much as the common people everywhere pointed out that the signboard of 'Left' ill-suits those who have left the people's side and that it can hardly sanctify the patently reactionary, pro-capitalist policies of these parties from the government. They also hailed our Party's initiatives to defend the citadel of Leftism from the attacks of Rightist and discredited parties like the Congress (I), Congress, Janata etc who will never miss the opportunity of exploiting popular discontent and grievances to their favour. If they succeed that will mean a political disaster and a serious setback to Left movement. So, the question was who could be the real alternative before the people against the anti-people policies of the CPI(M) and its colleagues. People's verdict came in favour of our Party, as was evident on 15th June.

Organisationally, it was the question of mobilising the people single-

handedly in the movement. Never before in the history of the left and democratic movement in our country a single party had to carry this responsibility. Our Party did it. More than seventy thousand people came from all walks of life—industrial workers, peasants, students, youths, intellectuals and particularly the peasants who came all the way from distant villages of far away districts to participate in the movement, braving all odds—intimidation and coercive tactics, mischievous propaganda, extreme physical hardships—everything. And how they braved the barbaric police attacks that were let loose on them by the 'Left Front' government! The high sense of discipline and fortitude of the volunteers even against brutal attacks was expressive of the revolutionary lessons they imbibed from the great teachings of their beloved leader and teacher **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**.

The vastness in number of participants, unprecedented in the state, the number of leaders and volunteers courting arrest, some 6500, excelling any such number in the past, even the reporters protesting on the spot against the unproved attacks, unprecedented sense of discipline and fortitude of the volunteers against gravest of provocations drew the full-throated admiration of the people. They liked such a force—such discipline, such purposiveness, such high moral standard in mass movements. SUCI fulfils their expectation, organisationally, politically, morally.

Now, a few words need be said about the CPI(M) and the government it leads in West Bengal. For the first time, the government could not come out with a Press note after the shameful happening on the 15th June. It could not perhaps make out what to say in its defence when all the leading dailies with

objective reporting and photographs as also the public opinion squarely placed the government on the dock for perpetrating unprovoked and premeditated police atrocities on the peaceful and disciplined sea of volunteers and thousands of common people who stood in support of the programme.

But even if the 'Left Front' government in West Bengal was obviously on the defensive, that cannot be said about Mr. Promode Dasgupta, the Chairman of the 'Left Front' and a Polit Bureau member of the CPI(M). Mr. Dasgupta with the obvious intention of wiping out the guilty conscience of the ranks tried to take a heroic posture. In his interview with a local daily, Mr. Dasgupta said that when SUCI dared violating 'law' and 'oppose' the government how could it expect that 'nothing' would happen. After all, "the path of movement is not strewn with flowers". Mr. Dasgupta, by this plain speaking, makes it clear that the path of mass movement is equally strewn with thorns when his party is in power just as it was when the Congress, the forces of authoritarianism, was in power. So, in this vital aspect of defending the bourgeois order, his party has no difference from all other parties, even from the forces of authoritarianism they allegedly fight. And whoever will dare fighting the policies of the state government, however anti-people and reactionary these are, will meet lathis, teargas and even bullets from the police and 'auxiliary' forces in plain clothes! After Mr. Dasgupta's public admission that his party will not tolerate any opposition to the government and that any defiance of bourgeois law will be firmly dealt with, it is wholly irrelevant to ask him and his government as to the worth either of the claim that the government in the state has a pro-people character or of the assurance sometimes voiced in speeches of the

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acts of these pseudo-Lefts. The tremor set off by their advancing steps shook the ruling clique which pounced upon them with bared fangs like beasts of prey. In the gathering darkness the beastly savagery raved wild, felling hundreds of the unarmed, peaceful people—trampled, crushed and battered down on the ground. The hounds let loose chased down men, women and children mauling them with all ferocity. Blood splashed on the streets. It was a deliberate, preplanned onslaught. It was a cold-blooded, calculated action. But the courage, discipline and determination of the marchers did not flinch before the cruel vengeance of the ruling parties. A higher inspiration was born that day, a firmer resolve to carry the task forward spread among the masses.

It was June 15 in Calcutta. The citadel of Left movement in the country, the nightmare to the ruling class and its collaborators, had woken up from lull at the call of struggle under the Red banner. SUCI was leading a mass violation of law demanding redressal of the people's growing miseries, particularly due to price-rise, acute power crisis and the anti-people education and language policy of the CPI(M) led government of West Bengal and to build up mass movement on a distinct Left line.

Frightened by the growing response of the toiling people to the revolutionary leadership of SUCI, the CPI(M) led government with the police force under it cracked down in brutal repression on the peaceful violators. Mask came off the pseudo-revolutionaries at the first incidence of organised mass protest under the banner of the genuine revolutionary leadership.

It was the beginning of awakening of the people. It was an alarm signal as well to the ruling class and its collaborators.

West Bengal has been in the forefront of Left movement in India. There had been bloodshed, killing

CPI(M)'s Mask of Leftism torn to pieces

and massacre of the people each time they rose in protest against the Congress misrule and oppression. And now the people experience that the CPI(M) is pursuing the same anti-people, undemocratic policies as of the Congress. Only that its vocabulary is different, only that its stands are cloaked in deception. This is what makes the CPI(M)'s posture more menacing. The people now yearn for movement on genuine left line against the non-Left, anti-people policies of the CPI(M) led government.

Our Party began campaign for movement throughout the state. In towns, villages, fields and factories, in every corner of the state meetings were held to explain the objective of the movement, its political significance and the people's task. Processions and campaign squads were taken out. Bulletins were brought out one after another in lakhs of copies to spread the message of movement. The people eagerly bought copies, even scrambled for them. They talked among themselves: "See, they work hard for organising movements. They are a different brand, unlike other parties." They thronged in hundreds and thousands in every meeting and listened with rapt attention to the Party's analysis of the political situation. "This is no howling. This is analysis, political analysis, and point by point at that", said one listener attending a Calcutta street corner meeting.

"You are right. He did not titillate us, he reasoned and set forth arguments. I was just comparing with what the leaders now in government say in their meetings. Those really sound like prattles. I must say," a fellow listener responded.

The warmth of response had been the same everywhere. And it created panic among the ruling class and its collaborators. During the campaign they tried in desperation to

foil the movement. They tried to tempt the poor peasants and agricultural labourers with money from the Panchayat and relief funds. They struck off names of many from the 'food-for-work' project for their taking part in the movement. SUCI workers were assaulted in broad daylight, their houses were raided and sleeping workers were beaten to unconsciousness. But all this had failed. Not even the belated monsoon demanding urgent works in the fields could prevent them. For, the exploited, the humiliated now want movement and they recognise SUCI as their own party.

And they came. Thousands and thousands. On June 15, to the city of Calcutta, toiling people of all ages—responding to the call of SUCI for mass violation of law. In procession after procession, raising slogans, voicing demands, they converged on the Sahid Minar maidan. Much before 2 p.m. the scheduled hour of assemblage, the ground was teeming with the marchers. There were unmistakable signs that the fervour of movement had again seized the people of West Bengal. The vast gathering was addressed by Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of our Party. He explained the political objective and the significance of the movement. A resolution containing a charter of 22 demands was moved and unanimously adopted. Comrade Dasgupta pointed out how the marchers should conduct themselves with proletarian discipline and being conscious of their historic task: "Remember, our Party has been built up by **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the Great Teacher of the Proletariat. He taught us time and again that the democratic mass movements would have to be built up on the edifice of the higher proletarian culture and ethics. We cannot allow ourselves to flinch for a moment even, from the sense of revolutionary discipline, ethics,

and culture which **Comrade Ghosh** set before us in his life'. This recalling of the great life and teaching of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** kindled the hearts of the marchers with fighting zeal and emotion. They reaffirmed their pledge to carry forward the task the great leader of the proletariat had adjured them.

Like a tide they started—moving out in a big procession of more than 70,000 people. The leaders of the Party had been walking in front. Banners spread from side to side. Flags and festoons were raised high. Slogans rent the air. People had lined up on the pavements, in shops, balconies and on roofs of adjoining buildings. It seemed the procession had no end.

Esplanade East, in front of Raj Bhavan, towards which the marchers headed had become crowded with people who had come to witness the mass violation of law. What impressed the watching public most was the organizational strength of SUCI revealed through this movement and the sense of discipline displayed by the volunteers and the marchers. "It is amazing, SUCI has grown so big. And what a disciplined party it is!" This was the common appreciation exclaimed in wonder.

Winding its way the procession reached Esplanade East from where the zone under Sec. 144 Cr. P. C. begins. The 'Left Front' Government had made its own kind of preparation to meet the marchers. Baton swinging policemen stood in a barricade facing the oncoming procession. In the adjoining park and lanes hundreds of policemen had been lurking armed with shields, batons and musket shells. The entire place was thick with plain dress policemen.

The marchers stopped in front of the police barrier; slogans stopped and they stood in silence. Com. Protiva Mukherjee, a member of the West Bengal State Secretariat

of the Party, addressed them explaining the objective before them. Com. Sukomal Dasgupta waved his hand in signal and the protest violation of law began. Deafening applause from the watching public greeted the marchers. Fervour of movement had seized them and they joined the marchers to raise slogans: 'Long Live Revolution, Long Live SUCI'. The police began arresting the violators. In 35 trips they took away about 6500 arrested men, women and children including the leaders Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, Com. Protiva Mukherjee, Com. Fatick Ghosh, Com. Sanat Dutta, Com. Amir Ali Halder, Com. Badsha Khan, Com. Debaprosad Sarkar, Com. Sitiesh Dasgupta and others. The remaining thousands stood peacefully for their turn. A member of the public exclaimed: 'It is wonderful, this sense of discipline. I was connected formerly with a Left party. I have seen many demonstrations before. But never have I seen so many people coming together for mass violation of law and doing it in such a disciplined manner. I am overwhelmed.'

But the 'Left Front' Government and its police had little to do with the public response and enthusiasm. As darkness fell the police encircled the front of the waiting marchers. And then, in a flash, they pounced upon men, women and children—battering them down. The attack was so sudden and severe that people fell one upon another making heaps of bodies. Ghastly scenes were there all around. An old peasant had fallen, beaten and bruised. Four policemen had been hitting him together with their batons. Tear gas shells flew in from all directions. The watching public were not spared. The injured, when they tried to crawl on the street, were immobilized by fresh showers of beatings. The volunteers were running to collect the unconscious and wounded

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marchers—the police came upon them hitting with batons till they fell down. Blood flowed out and the wounded lay straggling. Those who were standing behind tried to come forward to help their comrades. The wild rage of the CPI(M)'s certified 'public servants' then reached its height. The police drove a van through the marchers in a wild zigzag chase overrunning and knocking down the people. The vengeance thus burst forth in its ugliest fury.

This is how the champion of democracy, the party crying itself hoarse over protection of democracy, the 'Marxist' CPI (M) met a peaceful democratic mass movement. Hundreds have been wounded, and about 200 of them seriously. The number of missing persons at the end of the police rampage could not be assessed even several days later. Members of the public had lent their hands to help the Party volunteers carry the wounded to the temporary camp set up by the Party near the Sahid Minar. Many had to be rushed to hospital, but admission was refused for reasons best known to the government. They had been brought to the Party's central office at 48, Lenin Sarani. Many of them lay unconscious, many were bandaged all over—blood still dripping from their wounds.

There could not be a more glaring instance of the vengeance and brutality nurtured by the CPI(M) against mass movements led by SUCI. Public reaction to the brutal repression has been spontaneous. Everywhere, when our workers had gone back home, local people had come out to inquire what had happened during the mass violation—concern and anxiety writ large on their faces. They wanted the details and asked how the wounded were and whether the missing could be traced.

The CPI(M) calls itself Left. But we fail to under-

Savage and Unprovoked Attack on Real Character of the 'Left Front'



Who are these plain clothes men along with the police beating the marchers?

stand how could a 'Left' party mount such a savage attack on a legitimate democratic mass movement. Should we still consider them as Left? "Friends, we have faith in You carry on with your task. If anybody can accomplish, it is your party. But remember, they are extremely hostile to you. They have become

frantic. Tell us, what is your next programme for movement"—people are eagerly enquiring.

The Party had given call for observing the next day, 16th June, as Protest Day. North to south of the state, in all districts, the people observed it condemning severely the brutality of the 'Left Front' government. All these

years they have been betrayed by the pseudo-Left leadership of the mass movements. Again and again they have been deceived and again and again they have longed for the genuine revolutionary leadership to guide their movements. Breaking the spell of silence, movement has again begun in West Bengal

creating new hopes among them. So long they had one question: Will SUCI be able to achieve it? Has it mustered the necessary organizational strength to lead democratic mass movement June 15 came full of promises and with a new hope for them.



Peaceful Mass Movement Speaks For the Government

15th June—A Red Letter Day

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ministers that police shall not be sent against democratic movement. It also exposes the real intention and motive of the CPI(M) to appear as the third alternative within the bourgeois scheme of two-party system. Obviously it is not to defend the cause of the people but to defend the class rule of the bourgeoisie. Mr. Dasgupta only uttered the truth, a practical demonstration of which the government made on the 15th June and on so many occasions in its rule of two years. 15th June will therefore serve as an eye opener to all those who are genuinely interested in protecting the legitimate demands and rights of the toiling people through organised mass movement in the country. They are realising that the CPI(M) and its allies have totally identified themselves as anti-struggle forces in defence of the exploitative system. The political significance of this reality is very much important when, in the face of disintegration of the branded bourgeois parties, the CPI(M) is trying to step in as a consolidated political force to fill the void in bourgeois politics, to be the shrewdest defender of the bourgeois class interest and system. So, the significance of 15th June is not confined to West Bengal alone—it has an all India perspective as well.

The political significance of 15th June lies also in the fact that it demonstrates how timely and appropriate was the decision of our Party to mobilise the people against the reactionary policies of the government both at the centre and in the states. The party's assessment that the absence of any mass movement did not prove that the people were not longing for it; it proved rather the reverse, i.e. given a call

at this moment—not by any Rightist party but by a leftist party—people will enthusiastically respond to the call, has been proved to be correct. 15th June was thus the beginning, just to break the ice of lullness studiously built up by the forces of compromise for an easy-go of mounting exploitation of crisis-ridden capitalism as also for practising parliamentary opportunist politics. Both before and after 15th June, the people in general and the old workers of democratic movement have been rallying in greater number to the call of our Party for a sustained and well-coordinated movement throughout the state, down to district and village levels. For this the Party has given the call to the people to take into their hands the task of

enrolment of volunteers in thousands, formation of People's Committees at village levels, organising meetings and conventions, propaganda squads and processions—all sorts of mass programme for rousing bigger and still bigger sections of the people to a fighting enthusiasm.

The state committee of West Bengal has already decided about the second phase of movement which includes mass deputation, demonstration at block level and mass violation of law at the district level. The Party is quite conscious that the success of the movement depends on giving it an organised shape distinctly different from unorganised sporadic outburst of the people by forming a network of organisation of the people through the People's Committees which also will ensure wider participation of the masses necessary for a sustained and

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(By courtesy of Ananda Bazar Patrika)

15th JUNE BRUTALITY

Political Parties Condemn

CPI(M-L)

The West Bengal State Organising Committee of the CPI(ML) in a statement condemned the lathi charge on peaceful SUCI demonstration on Friday. (Statesman, 17.7.79).

The statement said: "The West Bengal Organising Committee of CPI(ML) severely condemns the lathi charge on the demonstration organised by the SUC on the 15th June 1979. This incident reminds us of the days of Congress regime when peaceful demonstrations were brutally attacked. It is a shame to the 'Left Front' Government that they have resorted to the same methods like the Congress Governments. We hereby call upon all the democratic parties and people including the supporters of 'Left Front' to come forward and condemn this police repression."

CPI

The Secretariat of the West Bengal State Council of the CPI in a statement on Saturday condemned the police action (Statesman, 17.6.79)

The statement, inter alia, said:

"The secretariat of the West Bengal State Council of the CPI condemns the lathi charge and teargassing by the police yesterday on the SUCI volunteers assembled for civil disobedience at Esplanade East.

Several thousands had already been arrested and taken to jail and it is clear that the civil disobedience was peaceful.instead of arresting the remaining volunteers the police wanted to disperse them by force.....!"

Pointing to the charges that our party raised (contd. to page 7)

Central Trade Unions

In a joint statement on 19th June '79 six central trade unions INTUC, HMS & UTUC (Lenin Sarani) BMS, NFITU and IFTU said:

"We strongly condemn the barbarous attack of the police of the CPI(M) lead Left Front Government on the peaceful demonstration of thousands of workers and peasants marching for mass civil disobedience at the call of West Bengal State Committee of SUCI, on 15th June, 1979 and supported by UTUC (Lenin Sarani), to protest against high price rise, high taxes, power crisis, language and education policy of the West Bengal Government.

"According to available reports 6,500 persons have been arrested and police without slightest provocation mercilessly lathicharged and fired 20 rounds of tear gas shells on the processionists injuring seriously more than 500 SUC men.

"We call upon the working people of the state to vehemently protest this unprovoked police action of the Left Front Government on the peaceful demonstration."

BPTUC

"The BPTUC have strongly condemned the savage lathi charge and teargas shelling on the peaceful demonstrators and Mass Civil Disobedience marchers on Friday. In a statement today (17.6.79) "they have demanded an impartial enquiry over the whole incident and police vandalism." It regretted, that in the past Congress had resorted to this tactics and the 'Left Front' government has taken the same path for gagging any anti-government voice of the people." (Kalantar, 18.6.79)

Besides, other mass organisations like Paschim Banga Yuba Sangha, BPTA Calcutta District etc., also condemned the police savagery of the 'Left Front' Government.

VIEWS OF THE PRESS

Anandabazar Patrika, 16.6.79

On Friday evening when Police made lathi-charge on the participants of the Mass Civil Disobedience organised by SUCI, many persons were injured. Quite a few rounds of tear-gas were fired, immediately after the lathi-charge. At that time a few thousands people were waiting to court arrest.... according to police report, about three thousand men and women were already arrested and taken away.....

Jugantar, 16.6.79

.....On their part they conducted a peaceful movement. The mass violation started at about 5-20 p.m.Then people like rushing water came.....

After violating law, a few thousands more were waiting for the buses and Vans. Suddenly at 6-20 p.m. police were seen to start lathi-charge. Severely beaten people were running away, falling on the ground... at about 6-30 p.m. tear-gas shells were fired.....

The injured persons were removed to the temporary Medical Camps beside Saheed Minar Maidan. I saw more than hundred injured persons lying on the grass groaning. Among the injured were seventy years' old Manik Pailan of Joynagar as well as a teen-ager like Sunil Manna of Mecheda ..

Kalantar, 16.6.79

...After six days, the 'Left Front' Government will be observing its two-years-completion-ceremony. Just before that the people of West Bengal have

witnessed the greatest mass-resentment against this government.

When the front of the mass civil disobedience procession, organised by the SUCI reached before

Eminent Individuals

Eminent individuals from different walks of social life have come forward to condemn the naked police atrocity of 15th June, in unequivocal terms.

Here we publish one statement in which some distinguished lawyers, educationists, litterateurs, and journalists have raised their voice of protest against police brutality.

It states, "We are deeply shocked to learn that hundreds of civil disobedience volunteers as also general members of the public including children, women and the aged, have been seriously injured as a result of indiscriminate lathi-charge and tear gas shelling by the police on the peaceful civil disobedience marchers led by the SUCI on the 15th June before Raj Bhavan to protest against the failure of the 'Left Front' Government to solve the burning issues in people's life, viz price rise, power crisis and the anti-people education and language policy of the 'Left Front' Government.

"We feel that such savage attack on the democratic movement poses a great danger to democracy.

"We strongly condemn this sort of brutal police onslaught on the legitimate movement of the people.

Sd/- Premendra Mitra
Dwijendralal Sengupta
Banamali Das
Sailesh Dey
Kalikinkar Sengupta
Debesh Roy (Bəduin)
Kalipada Sinha
S. C. Basu

Arabinda Mukherjee
Shyamaprasad Bandopadhyay
Subir Basu Roy
Kshetraprasad Sensharma
and
thirteen others

In a letter to us from Haldibari, Coohbehar a dramatist and National Award winner teacher Sri Jitendra Basak, Sahitya Swaraswati has condemned the police, atrocities. on.

the Police-cordon at Esplanade East passing through Mayo Road, Surendranath Banerjee Road, Wellington Square, Lenin Sarani, there were still a thousand people at Saheed Minar Maidan.

There was quiet all around, only slogans were being raised at times. Three young people advanced a little beyond the police-cordon. Without warning the police started beating mercilessly the three young men. The procession was standing resolutely raising slogans condemning the police action. After this the police tried to provoke the processionists brandishing lathis in a provocative manner. The processionists, did not disperse. After this the police time and again rushed with lathis towards the people standing inside Courzon Park and had beaten quite a few of them.

At 6-20 P.M. I saw Mr. Safi. D C Central went in front of the procession with some plain dress policemen. Darkness descended. Suddenly, surprising all the police pounced upon the peaceful people of the procession. Lathis were being showered. Many fell on the ground. Within moments in front of the Pearlless Bhawan and on its opposite side grew two hills of human bodies. Police were breaking those hills with lathis, blood spilling on the street.

Thousands of people condemned the police, condemned the 'Left Front' Government as well.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16.6.79

The SUCI's demonstration on the day against price rise, power crisis and faulty language and education policies of the 'Left Front' Government was undoubtedly one of the biggest in the recent past. While the front of the procession reached the Esplanade East, its tail was in the maidan.

The demonstrators were apparently peaceful. (contd. to page 7)

15th June Brutality Political Parties Condemn

(contd. from page 6)

against the premeditated and naked police action the same statement added,

"These are grave charges which call for an immediate impartial enquiry and necessary action."

Workers' Party of India

In a statement (dt. 16.6.79) on behalf of the West Bengal State Committee of the Workers' Party of India Sri Hemendra Behari Mukherjee condemned the lathi charge and teargassing on the peaceful procession organised by SUC in connection with the Mass Civil Disobedience on June 15th last.

(Basumati, 17.6.79)

RCPI

The RCPI has also severely condemned the police attack on peaceful demonstration of SUCI on 15th June (Ananda Bazar, 17. 6. 79). Besides, on the eve of the programme on 15th June Comrade Anadi Das, Secretary, Central Committee of the RCPI supporting the above movement in a letter to us on 27th May said....."To prove the anti-Marxist character of this government and to prove the social chauvinistic character of it as well and to keep the banner of Marxism-Leninism flying high, exposure work is necessary and some form of struggle is urgent to break the silence of mass movement which the 'Left Front' Government has successfully imposed on the people only to the glee of the capitalists....."

VIEWS OF PRESS

(contd. from page 6)

Suddenly at this stage the police made a lathi-charge. It was immediately followed by firing of tear-gas shells.

The Patriot, 17. 6. 79

The police yesterday lathi-charged peaceful SUC demonstrators who had rallied here to protest against price rise, power crisis, anarchy in education etc.

The attack was totally unprovoked. In fact, it was the policemen who tried to provoke the demonstrators from the very beginning. Thanks to the fine sense of organisation and discipline of the SUC, the thousands of demonstrators never broke the procession line nor did they show any sign of being provoked in the least.

The police made the lathi-charge after dusk obviously to prevent the photographers from taking clear pictures of their vandalism.

Darpan, (a leftist weekly) 22. 6. 79.

On the last 15th June,

Police, by means of lathi charge without any reason, brought down severe attack on the Mass Civil Disobedience programme of SUCI. They fired tear-gas shells also on the procession. As a result of this indiscriminate lathi charge a large number of people were injured and tortured.....

There was not the slightest symptom of any provocation or indiscipline on the part of the demonstrators. The remarkably disciplined and well organised procession after traversing different thoroughfares of the city including Dharmatala St. finally ended at the crossing of Decares Lane (and Esplanade East).... police with lathis and tear gas shells pounced upon the SUC marchers holding Red Flags. While one of the press photographers tried to take snap of the incident he was manhandled by the police. At last a group of journalists present there got agitated and demanded immediate stoppage of lathi charge..... (Emphasis added-Ed. P. Era)

Mass Movements in States under the banner of SUCI

ASSAM ORGANISES CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

Gauhati, 25th June '79 :

In pursuance of the call of all national programme of mass mobilisation and movement decided by the Central Committee of our Party, the Assam State Committee organised week long Mass Campaign Programme from 18th June which culminated in Mass Civil Disobedience at district and' subdivisional levels on 25th June. The programme of the party highlighting the demands of the common people on certain urgent problems drew tremendous mass

support and encouragement.

The State unit drew up a 10 point charter and on the basis of this charter has been organising mass opinions and movement. Party plans for a sustained movement on these burning issues, preparations for which are going on.

The charter includes demands interalia of i) checking price rise and introduction of all out state trading in food grains and other essential commodities etc, ii) regular supply of adequate quantity

of rice, wheat, dal, salt, kerosene, sugar etc., through fair price shop both in villages and towns, iii) reopening of closed factories with full contingent of work force, iv) adoption of programme for opening industries to stem the tide of mounting unemployment, v) taking steps to stop eviction of poor peasants and share croppers as also harassment of India nationals, vi) ensuring of jobs to all able-bodied persons or in its absence unemployment allowance, both in towns and villages etc.

ORISSA STARTS MOVEMENT IN JULY

The Orissa State Committee of the Party has given a call for mass movement in the state on a thirty point charter of demands including the general demands formulated by the CC and on ten more specific issues of the state like Land to the tillers, Permanent solution of flood in Orissa, Establishing rail links connecting different parts of the state, Comprehensive scheme of industrialisation of the state, Extension of education facilities to all, Conferring *patta* on

reclaimed lands cultivated by poor peasants and landless peasants etc.

According to the programme adopted, the first phase of the movement will start from 10th July next. On this day a massive mass deputation to the State Assembly will be organised and a memorandum with a 30-point charter of demand containing mass signatures will be placed before the Chief Minister. Before it, campaign on a massive scale in the form of poster-ing, wallwriting, street

corner meetings, local mass meetings and mass signature campaign will be organised throughout the state.

Thereafter, 16th July will be observed as the 'Demand Day' in the state when mass deputations before the Block, Tahasildar, SDO and DM's offices throughout the state of Orissa will be organised. Side by side, work for recruiting volunteers and formation of people's committees will go on.

BIHAR PREPARING FOR LAUNCHING MOVEMENT

In Bihar, it has been decided that besides general campaign through poster-ing, wall writing, street corner meetings mass deputations to place memorandum before the District and Block level authorities on the burning problems of people's life originating from the anti-people policies of the Central and State Govern-

ments will be organised throughout the state during the months of June and July. In this regard it may be relevant to mention that the Bihar State Committee of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) along with other central trade unions, service associations and other labour organisations of the state would organise state wide massive

trade union movement against black Industrial Relations Bill and black ordinance of the Bihar Janata Government, prohibiting strike in State Government undertakings and other repressive policies of this government which will ultimately lead to Bihar Bandh some time in August this year.

Delhi, Kerala and Tamil Nadu also start Campaign for Movement

In Delhi, Kerala and Tamil Nadu campaign for mass movement against the anti-p. pole policies of

the Central Janata Government and respective State Governments has already started in the

form of intensive poster-ing, wall writing, leafletting etc.

Comrade Jagdeo Paswan Red Salute !

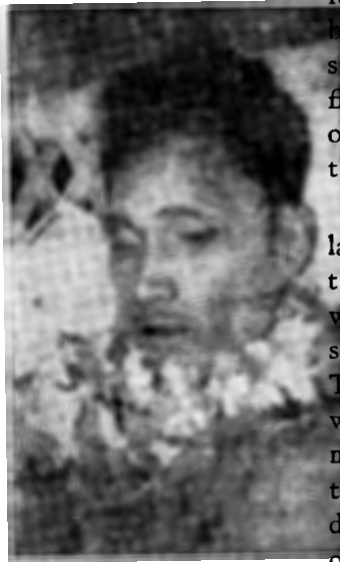
15th June
—a Red Letter Day

Munghyr, 13th June '79 :

Braving all odds, the rapid expansion of SUCI's organisational influence throughout the county and the development of democratic mass movement led by it in almost every state of India have frightened the ruling class and the vested interests so much so that in Bihar the infuriated vested interest in its bid to anyhow forestall the onward march of SUCI deployed its muscle men in the state who, in collusion with the police administration, brutally murdered Comrade Jagdeo Paswan, Member of the Munghyr District organising Committee of SUCI and Secretary of the Munghyr District Kishan Khet Majdur Sangh, on 11th June last.

On his way back in a horse-cart to the native village Shyampur after attending a mass meeting at Ramcharit Maidan in Khargapur block on 11th June last, Comrade Paswan was stopped at Kanjri Pole by seven or eight notorious anti-socials carrying deadly weapons. They forcibly pulled down Comrade Paswan from within the horse cart and shot him dead.

With electrifying speed the news of this ghastly murder spread out and a great commotion ensued among the public at large along with the



supporters and sympathisers who rushed to the spot.

The police without making any spot enquiry wanted to take away the dead body on the plea of post-mortem examination to which the assembled people were vehemently opposed. Police then resorted to lathi-charge and forcibly took away the body of Comrade Paswan.

On the following day, 12th of June at eight in the morning the dead body was handed over to local Party unit. The body was taken to Munghyr Town Hall Maidan where it was kept with all dignity. Innumerable people, from different walks of life and the workers, supporters and sympathisers of the party came, one by one

throughout the day, to pay their respectful revolutionary homage to their beloved leader who always stood by them in their fight against injustice and oppression of the exploitative capitalist system.

Thereafter, started the last journey with several thousands of people, workers, supporters and sympathisers of the Party. The body of Com. Paswan was bedecked with half mast Red flags and floral tributes. On the way, defying the prohibitory orders of the police the procession marching past the Munghyr Court area waited on the Police Superintendent to record the FIR and en-masse demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and their punishment.

Comrade Paswan is no more ! The hired goondas could take the life of Com. Paswan but can they stop the march of the revolutionary ideology he held high ? About six years back being imbued with the thoughts of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Paswan came in contact with the revolutionary party of the Indian proletariat, the SUCI and conducted life long struggles till his death under the leadership of his beloved party, the SUCI.

RED SALUTE
Comrade Jagdeo Paswan !

(contd. from page 5)

protracted movement till the demands are met. The Party's programme for organising mass protest and movement are not confined to West Bengal only, but for all the states where we are working. Our Party's initiative to mobilise the toiling people on correct base political line throughout the country is a momentous event. With the crisis in the bourgeois system gradually coming to a head and the social democratic and modern revisionists taking more and more active role as the most enthusiastic defenders of crisis-ridden capitalism in place of the old and branded bourgeois parties thoroughly discredited and showing disintegration, organising the oppressed people in mighty mass movements on the basis of revolutionary line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution and higher proletarian ethics and culture under the leadership of a revolutionary party of the proletariat has assumed great significance.

On our Party devolves this historic task as the great leader and teacher

of the proletariat **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, was urging on the toiling people to grasp till the very end of his life. His political vision is coming to reality so soon. Armed with the revolutionary teachings and guidance that **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, our most beloved leader and teacher, has left for us, the party is fulfilling the need of this historic moment. People repose their faith on us. We are to prove worthy of their great expectation. People have been betrayed again and again, their dream has been shattered many a time. They searched for but did not get their real leader. Today, the dialectics of history has brought them nearer to their real leader, SUCI, the most precious asset **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** has handed down to them. Realisation of this political reality by the toiling people as also by our comrades will bring in a new phase of political preparation that alone can hasten the doom of this chaos-discredited, crisis-ridden old capitalist exploitative system along with its defenders of all hues.

Trade Union Convention in Rourkela

The two-day Trade Union Convention of the workers of steel and other unions affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) was held on 9-10 June in Rourkela steel town amidst tremendous enthusiasm. Comrade Pritish Chanda, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) was present and gave long analytical speeches. The Convention took decision for organising mass movement in the State against anti-labour policies of the government. Com. Binapani Das was in the Chair, at Delegates session. Com. Tapas Dutta also spoke.

Condolence Meeting

A mammoth meeting condoling the murder of Comrade Paswan was held at Havelikharagpur, Munghyr District, on 25th June.

Defeat Reactionary Communal forces forging iron-like class solidarity

—SUCI's Call to the People

Calcutta 22 June :

Condemning the outburst of communal violence in Nadia District, Com. Sukomol Das Gupta, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, S.U.C.I., has, in course of a statement, said :

"We feel serious concern at this outbreak of communal frenzy in

Nadia since it will disturb not only peace and security of life of the common people but will also hit at the very root of legitimate democratic movements of the toiling millions of West Bengal. It is really very ominous that the vested interests have become very much

active to sow discord among the people at a time when the policies and the deeds of the 'Left Front' Government have been already directed against democratic mass movements that alone could create a restraining effect on the communal forces. It is really very painful that the 'Left Front' Government has

failed to take necessary precautionary measure to prevent the outbreak of communal disturbance.

"We fervently appeal to the people to forge closest unity among them irrespective of caste, creed, religion etc, and demand of the 'Left Front' Government to immediately form an All-Party Committee to help the

administration function in a non-partisan manner and adopt strictest measures to nip it in the bud.

"We further demand that in order to reveal the truth as to who and which forces are responsible for this communal violence and to punish those found guilty a non-official Enquiry Committee be immediately formed.

Editor-in-Chief—NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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